### More than Workshops, Websites and Syntheses

Pam Winton, PhD Senior Scientist and Director of Outreach FPG Child Development Institute

http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~handouts/winton\_head\_start\_08.pdf

Head Start 9th National Research Conference | Washington DC | Closing Plenary

June 25, 2008



#### The Research-Practice Gap

- Why don't practitioners do what the research says?
- Why don't researchers study what really matters in practice?

#### Session Objectives

- To explore collective solutions for building stronger research to practice to policy connections
- To share research related to building research-practice connections
- To challenge assumptions that impede connections

### Teachers/Practitioners, here is a question for you...

Where do you turn for help and information when faced with a practice dilemma?

# How consistent is your response to those found in the literature?

Authors	Discipline	Primary Source of Knowledge for Addressing Clinical Practice Issues
Mattingly and Fleming (1994)	Occupational Therapy	Mentoring clinician
McKee, Witt, Elliot, Pardue, & Judycki (1987)	School Psychology	Talking with colleagues
Philibert, Snyder, Judd, & Windsor (2003)	Occupational Therapy	Continuing education  Mentoring clinician



# How consistent is your response to those found in the literature?

Authors	Discipline	Primary Source of Knowledge for Addressing Clinical Practice Issues
Rappolt & Tassone (2002)	Physical and Occupational Therapy	Informal consultation with peers Continuing education



# Faculty/Professional Development Providers, here is a question for you...

What does research say about effective professional development approaches?

#### Effective Professional Development ...

- Is NOT a one-shot workshop.
- focuses on professional practices and consists of content-specific rather than general instruction.
- is aligned with instructional goals, learning standards, and curriculum materials.
- is intense, sustained over time and includes guidance and feedback through methods such as coaching, consultation, or facilitated collaboration.
- takes organizational and systems issues into account.



#### Researchers/Evaluators ...

- Some questions of concern ...
  - Are practices being promoted by professional development being implemented with fidelity?
  - Can effective practices be sustained over time?

#### Factors that Affect Implementation

- Administrative supports
- Organizational structures
- Policies
- Resources
- Professional development
- Evaluation and data systems

(Fixsen, et al, 2005)





#### Comtemt

#### Context

### Connections



## Contextual issues are changing ways we organize and share content

 Emphasis on gathering & synthesizing practice knowledge

Proliferation of EBP web sites



Overview

Intervention/ Topic Reports Practice Guides Technical Assistance Research to Review Technical Working Papers

What's New

#### Welcome to WC

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) collects, screens, and identifies studies of effectiveness of educational interventions (programs, products, practices, and policies). The WWC regularly updates the WWC Technical Standards and their application to take account of new considerations brought forth by experts and users. Such changes may result in re-appraisals of studies and/or interventions previously reviewed and rated. The current WWC Standards offer guidance for those planning or carrying out studies, not only in the design considerations but the analysis and reporting stages as well. The WWC Standards, however, may not pertain to every situation, context, or purpose of a study and will evolve.

#### What's New?

NCER Releases Two New Practice Guides: Sep 28 Encouraging Girls in Math and Science and Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning

Encouraging Girls in Math and Science is the second in a series of IES guides in education; Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning is the third IES Practice Guide. (more info)

#### WWC Releases New Intervention Report - Aug 13 Success for All

Success for All (SFA)® is a comprehensive school reform model that includes a reading, writing, and oral language development program for students in pre-kindergarten through grade eight. (more info)

WWC Releases New Intervention Report -Ladders to Literacy for Kindergarten Students

#### -Customer Window-

Provide feedback on additional topics for the What Works Clearinghouse

#### CURRENT TOPICS



Beginning Reading. This review focuses on reading interventions that address student outcomes for students in grades K-3 in four domains.



Character Education. This review focuses on programs designed to increase student outcomes related to positive character development, prosocial behavior, and academic

performance.

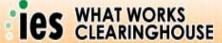


Aug 13

**Dropout Prevention.** This review focuses on interventions in middle school, junior high school, or high school designed to increase high school completion, including techniques

Institute of Education Sciences U.S. Department of Education

NewsFlash Contact Site Index Help



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Overview

Intervention/ Topic Reports ractice Technical Guides Assistance Research to Review Technical Working Papers

What's New

Beginning Reading | Character Education | Dropout Prevention | Early Childhood Education | Elementary School Math | English Language Learners | Middle School Math Curricula



#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Abstract | 🔁 Review Protocol (125 KB)

#### **Intervention Reports**

Curiosity Corner

DaisyQuest

Dialogic Reading

Direct Instruction

Doors to Discovery™

Interactive Shared Book Reading

Let's Begin with the Letter People®

Literacy Express

Phonological Awareness Training

Phonological Awareness Training plus Letter Knowledge Training

Pre-K Mathematics

Ready, Set, Leap!®

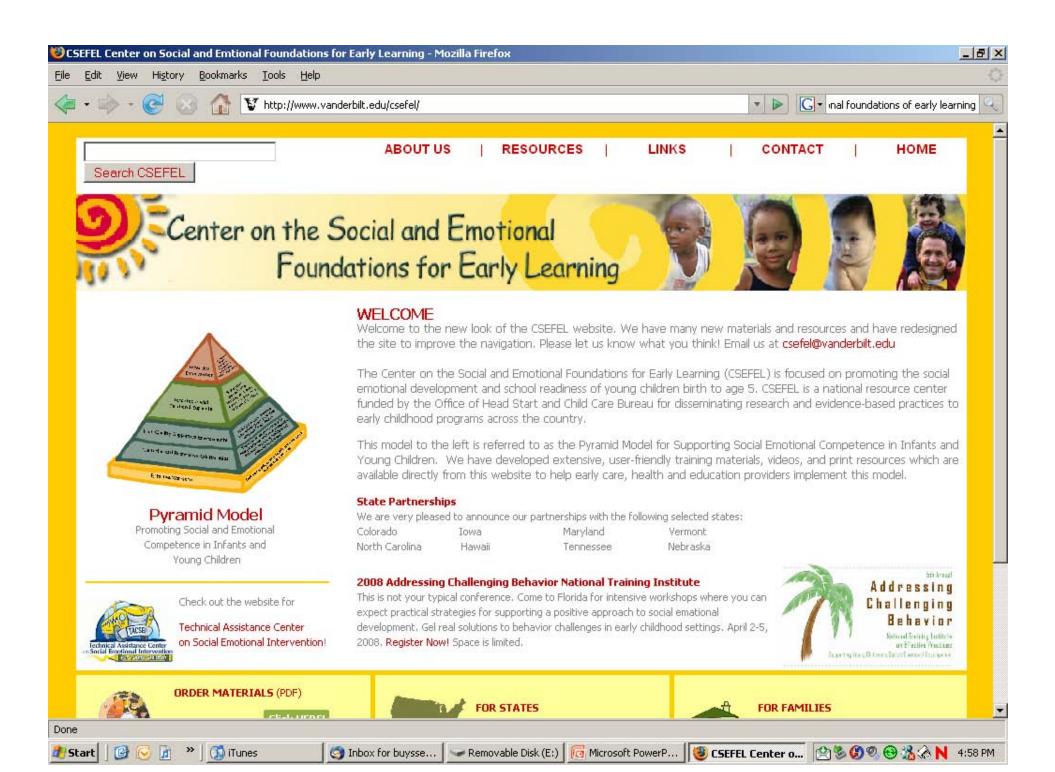
The What Works Clearinghouse review in this topic area focuses first on early childhood education interventions (curricula and practices) designed for use in center-based settings with 3- to 5-year-old children who are not yet in kindergarten or children who are in preschool, with a primary focus on cognitive and language competencies associated with school readiness (language, literacy, math, and cognition). Interventions and studies with a primary focus on socio-emotional development and approaches to learning may be addressed in a subsequent phase of the review. The review also includes a focus on center-based early childhood education interventions designed to improve the school readiness skills of preschool children with developmental delays or diagnosed disabilities. These may be inclusive interventions used with all children or targeted interventions designed specifically for children with developmental delays or diagnosed disabilities.

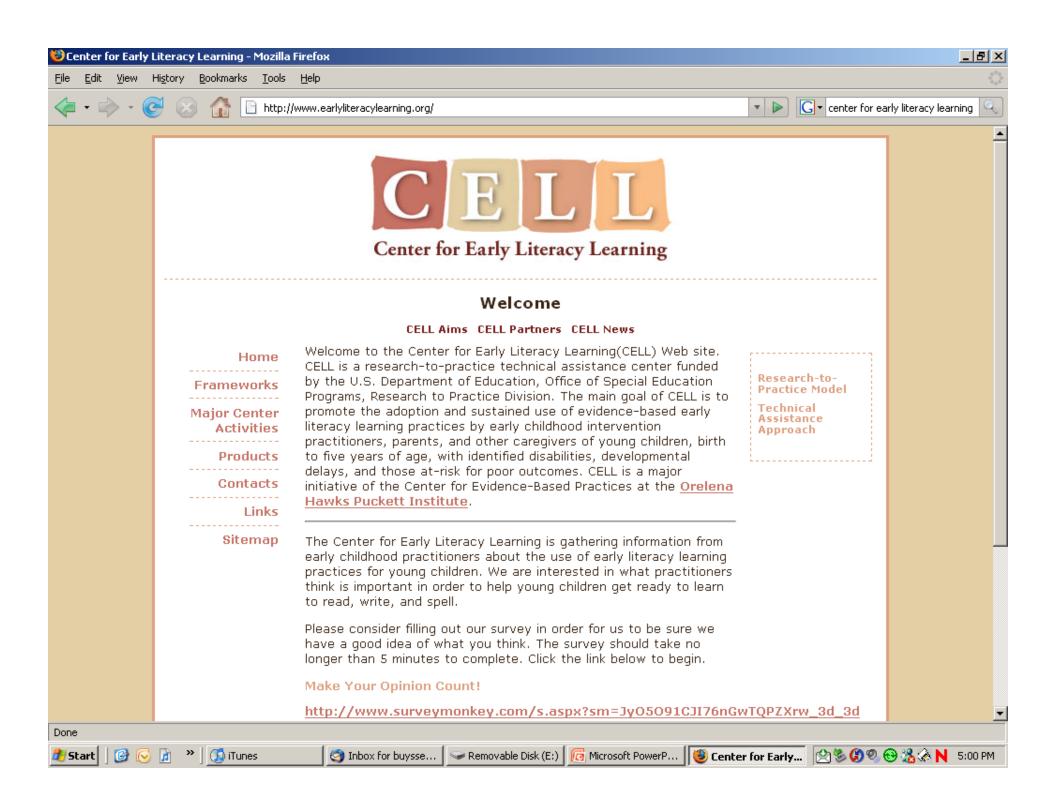
WWC Intervention Reports provide all findings that "Meet Evidence Standards" or "Meet Evidence Standards with Reservations" for studies on a particular intervention. Intervention reports are created for those interventions that have at least one study that "Meets Evidence Standards" or "Meets Evidence Standards with Reservations." Intervention reports are one component of the decision-making process, but should not be the sole source of information when making educational decisions.

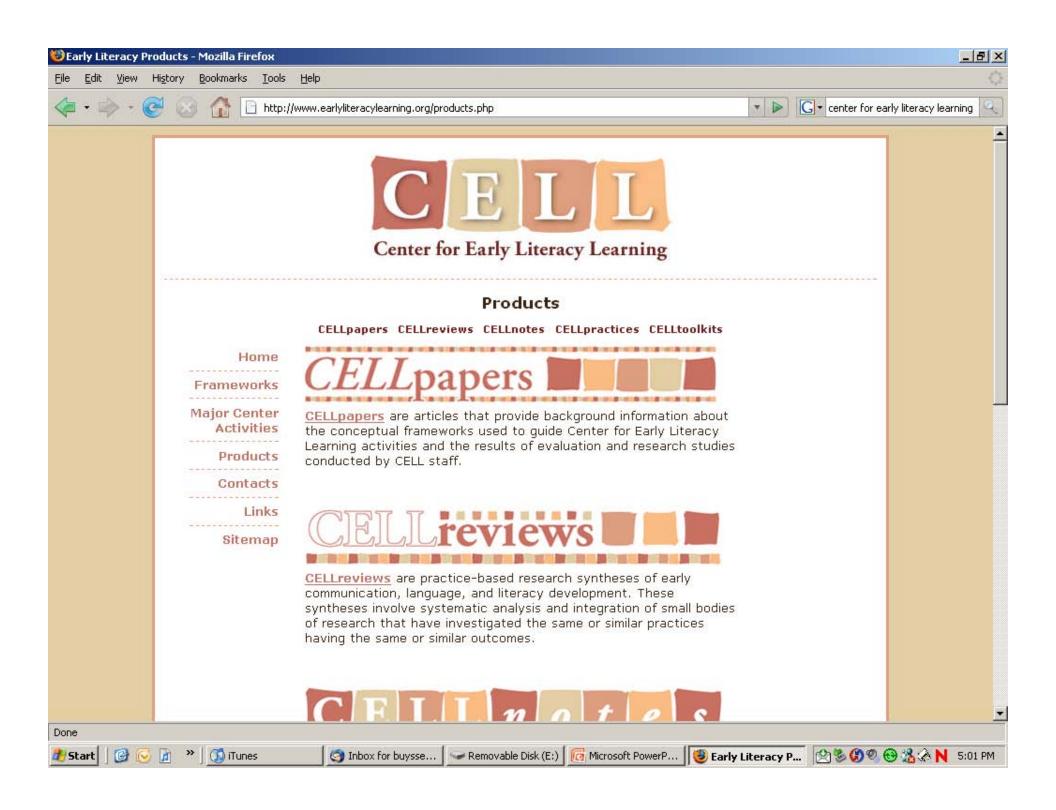
EFFECTIVENESS RATINGS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SIX DOMAINS











#### Web Links

- http://ies.ed.gov/wwc/
- http://www.researchtopractice.info/
- http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/
- http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/

### Moving From Traditional

Dissemination

Strategies



#### Challenging Assumptions

Researchers generate knowledge...and practitioners apply it

### Components and Tasks of Knowledge Utilization

**Knowledge Generation** 



**Knowledge Application** 

**Knowledge Translation** 



**Knowledge Mediation** 





#### Challenging Assumptions

Researchers generate knowledge...and practitioners apply it

 "Truth" exists in the form of "gold standard" research

# #1: Embrace the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Movement

#### Pvidence-based practice

a decision-making process that integrates the best available research evidence with family & professional wisdom & values (Buysse & Wesley, 2006; Snv´´ Winton, 2006)

## Evidence-Based Medicine

The integration of the best available research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values.

(Sackett et al., 2000)



### Evidence-Based Education (Whitehurst, 2002)

Integration of professional wisdom with the best available empirical evidence in making decisions about how to deliver instruction

Whitehurst, G. J. (2002, October). *Evidence-based education*. Presentation at the Student Achievement and School Accountability Conference. Retrieved June 23, 2004 from www.ed.gov/offices/list/ies/director.html



# #2: Embrace New Technologies and Learning Strategies



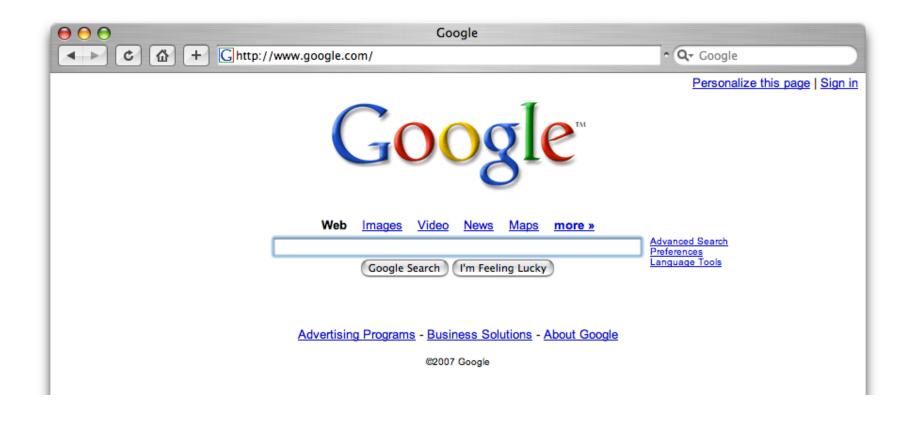
Web 2.0

## More than 3,000 new books are published every day



# That is more than in the previous 5,000 years.

### There are over 2.7 billion searches performed on Google each month





Results 1-10 of about 28,000,000 for early childhood.



early childhood professional development

28,000,000



early childhood education

7,790,000



early childhood training

402,000

36,192,000



## We Invite Your Comments/Contributions! http://community.fpg.unc.edu/



### #3: Abolish Workshops



### Promising PD strategies

(Winton, 2006)

#### Shared inquiry & learning around practices

- Communities of Practice (CoPs)
- Teacher research
- Consultation
- Coaching



# Moving To New Models for Engaging Adult Learners

outreach <sub>(esearch</sub> reseasing of USESINO SGLNICO



# Additional Examples of Technology-Enhanced CoPs

- Univ. of KS Beach Center: www.beachcenter.org
- NAEYC: www.naeyc.org (members only)
- Zero to Three Infant-Toddler Project
- TAcommunities: www.TAcommunities.org



## What are implications for your work?



#### Teachens

- Seek out research based evidence for your work
- Be open to new ideas/evidence that should change classroom practice because it leads to better child outcomes

### Researchers/Professional Development Providers:

- Pursue models that effectively engage adult learners
- Collaborate with teachers for improved ideas

